

TESTIMONY FOR MICHIGAN HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
ON HB4887 Amending Section 204 of 2006 PA110

Connie Lapham

10059 Lakeside Drive, Perrinton, MI 48871 989-682-4180

October 19, 2011

I have read a few comments online stating that Representative Opsommer's HB4887 is unnecessary and is a waste of legislators' time. I would like to remind everyone that the original Federal Food Safety Modernization Act included language that would have regulated home gardening, roadside stands and community gardens. That Act as finally passed in 2010 exempted those groups from regulation but I believe the fact that it **was there** in the first place is evidence that the mindset of some in the government is to takeover and regulate the family garden. I am pleased that Representative Opsommer is being proactive in preserving our right-to-garden and thus provide food for our families.

My husband and I were both raised on farms. We, like our parents and grandparents before us, have always planted gardens and preserved those fruits and vegetables for use during the winter. We live from the food provided by our garden. Each season, I harvest and preserve green beans, beets, tomatoes, pickles, sauerkraut, peaches and other produce.

We are always being reminded that citizens should “share the wealth.” Well, for over 45 years, we have “shared the wealth” of our garden with our elderly friends and neighbors who cannot grow gardens either because they can’t physically do it or they don’t have the land to do so. We know of other gardeners who also “share the bounty.”

We are constantly being told that there is “no inflation”. People living on Social Security know better. For some people a trip to the grocery store is a time to decide what is needed most that week—food, clothing, medicine or heat . When we share a head of cabbage or a basket of tomatoes with a neighbor that neighbor has a few more dollars for other necessities.

In my opinion, the Government has no business regulating family gardens. Citizens should have the right to be self-sufficient and provide food for their families. Passage of HB4887 will preserve for all Michigan citizens the right to grow residential gardens without being subjected to Government inspections or permits. I ask each of you to please support HB4887.